We've all been taught how to write a 5-paragraph essay, but we need to revisit exactly why it is such a strong writing tool:

1. Introduction – include an interesting lead or hook, a thesis statement, and the main points of your argument/analysis
2. Topic 1
3. Main Idea
4. Support/Evidence
   1. Detail/Example
   2. Detail/Example
5. Support/Evidence
   1. Detail/Example
   2. Detail/Example
6. Main Idea
7. Support/Evidence
   1. Detail/Example
   2. Detail/Example
8. Support/Evidence
   1. Detail/Example
   2. Detail/Example
9. Topic 2
10. Main Idea
11. Support/Evidence
    1. Detail/Example
    2. Detail/Example
12. Support/Evidence
    1. Detail/Example
    2. Detail/Example
13. Main Idea
14. Support/Evidence
    1. Detail/Example
    2. Detail/Example
15. Support/Evidence
    1. Detail/Example
    2. Detail/Example
16. Topic 3
17. Main Idea
18. Support/Evidence
    1. Detail/Example
    2. Detail/Example
19. Support/Evidence
    1. Detail/Example
    2. Detail/Example
20. Main Idea
21. Support/Evidence
    1. Detail/Example
    2. Detail/Example
22. Support/Evidence
    1. Detail/Example
    2. Detail/Example
23. Conclusion – include a summary of your main points, a restatement of your thesis/argument, and a final comment/opinion/main idea that would allow for further research or a continuation of your paper

This outline for a 5-paragraph essay does not leave one subject to uphold the argument, and absolutely no subject is alone. There are always at least two categories per idea, supporting evidences, and details or examples. These subjects interact with one another in order to form a stronger argument.

This outline also allows paragraphs to flow easily between subjects. Following the example outline above, you should have paragraphs that are structured like this:

**Topic Sentence** – this sentence should introduce your readers to the subject you will cover in this paragraph. **Main Idea** – this sentence[s] should clearly state what you believe or think about a subject. **Support/Evidence** – this sentence[s] should provide evidence for why your main idea is valid, or why you came to the conclusion of the analysis that you did. **Detail/Example** – this sentence[s] should provide your readers with someone else’s words using a quote if possible. **Detail/Example** [same idea as previous sentence]. **Concluding Sentence** – this sentence should clearly state why your main idea/analysis is important. **Transition Sentence** – this sentence should lead your readers from this topic to the next topic and end your paragraph. \*\*\*The transition sentence connects your ideas and introduces the next point of your paper.